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ANNUAL REPORT



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

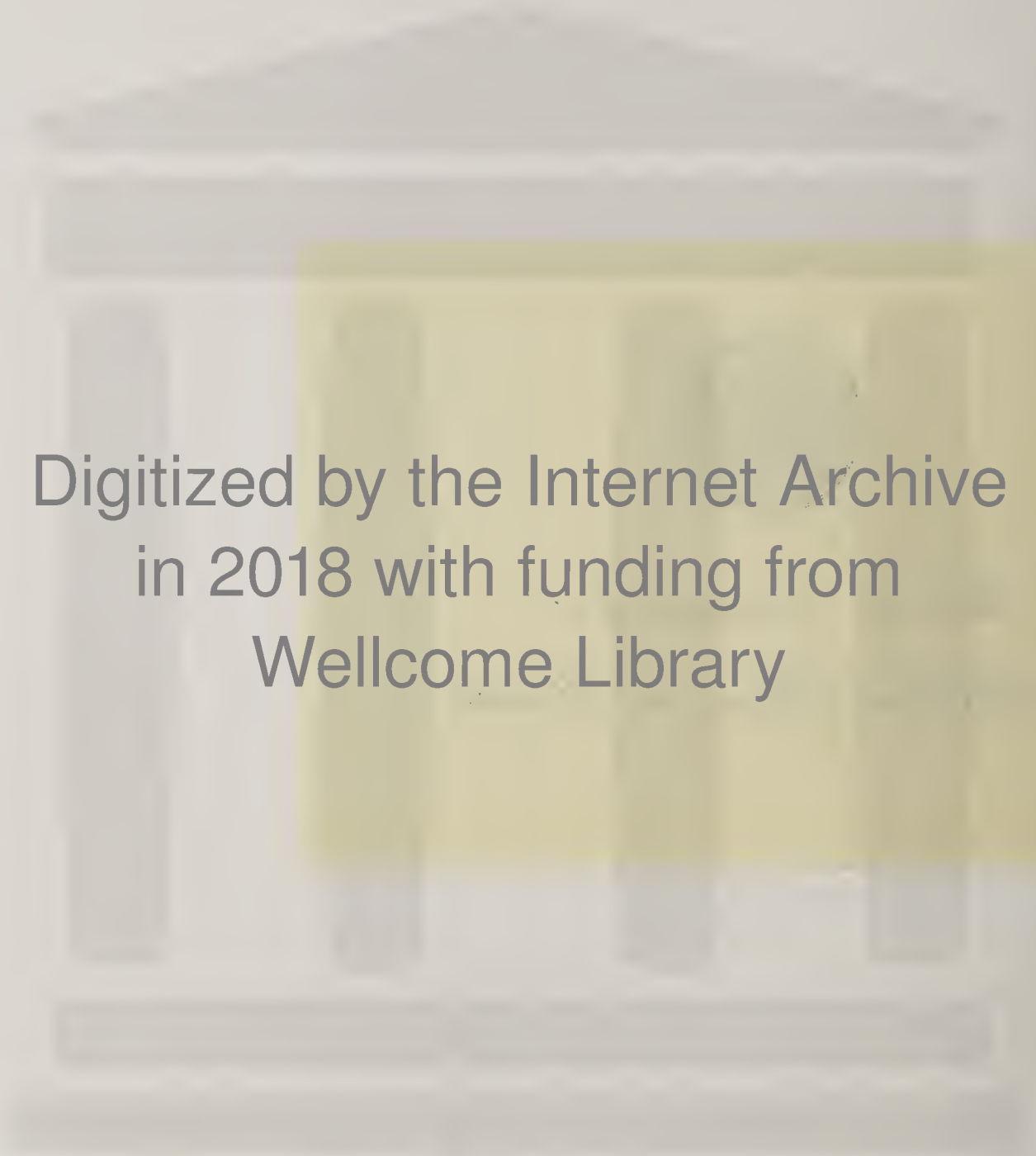
WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1951.





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the Medical Officer of Health*



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
WESTHOUGHTON.

August, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Health Committee.

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health of the District for the year 1950.

It follows similar lines to those of the immediately previous years in conformity with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA OF THE DISTRICT - 5,554 acres.  
CENSUS POPULATION, 1931 - 16,018.  
ESTIMATED POPULATION 1950 - 15,000.  
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES AT END OF YEAR - 4672.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		
Live	Legitimate	184	98	86		
Births	Illegitimate	5	4	1	Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1950.	
	Total	189	102	87		12.6
Stillbirths		9	5	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	45.0
Deaths		197	109	88	Deathrate per 1,000 estimated population	13.9

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Deathrate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	NIL	NIL
Other maternal causes	NIL	NIL
Total	NIL	NIL

Deathrate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	21
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	37
Deaths from Measles " "	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

Population for Birth-rate & Death-rate - 15,000.

Per 1,000 of estimated population					
	Live Birth rate	Crude Death rate	Deathrate from Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Deathrate from Cancer	Rate of deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 years 1945 - 1949	16.0	11.9	15	1.58	36
1949	13.2	11.0	NIL	1.41	36
1950	12.6	13.1	0.20	-	21
Increase or decrease in 1950 on :-					
(1) 5 yrs average 1945 - 1949	-3.4	+1.2	+ 0.05	-	-15
(2) Previous year	-0.6	+2.1	+0.20	-	-15
Maternal Mortality Rate					
	per 1,000 live Births		per 1,000 total (live & still) births		
Mean of 5 yrs. 1945 - 1949	1.70		1.63		
1949	NIL		NIL		
1950	NIL		NIL		
Increase or decrease in 1950 on :-					
(1) 5 yrs average 1945 - 1949	1.70		-1.63		
(2) previous year	NIL		NIL		

The birthrate (12.6) continued its decline and was well below the rate for England & Wales (15.8).

The death-rate (13.9) compared with a rate for England & Wales (29.8)

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation, which is filtered and treated before going into supply. All dwellinghouses are supplied direct from the mains. Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by Bolton Corporation. Seven examinations were made of the water as received at terminal points in the area.

No. of bacteriological examinations 2 Results - Satisfactory.

No. of chemical examinations 5 Results - Satisfactory.

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.  
No liability to plumbo-solvent action.

#### DRAINAGE.

There have been no important extentions or alterations in the general scheme.



## HOUSING

In common with surrounding areas, lack of houses is of paramount importance. There were, at the end of the year, 428 names on the Council's list of applicants and of these about 271 were living in lodgings.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

	Prefabricated houses		Traditional permanent houses.
	Temporary	Permanent	
(i) By the local authority	-	-	70
(ii) By other local authorities	-	-	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	-	-	14

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS

A total of 3,651 premises were visited and 504 defects or nuisances discovered, necessitating the serving of 223 Informal Notices and 9 Statutory Notices. It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 73

Number of inspections made for the purpose 354

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 70

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority. 56

### Action under statutory powers during the year.

1. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 2

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 1  
(b) By local authority in default of owners -

Action under statutory powers during the year. cont'd.

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) By owners                               | 6 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | - |

INFESTATION

Three houses were found infested with bed bugs which were disinfested by the use of an insecticide (5% D.D.T. spray).

FOOD INSPECTION

The 74 producer-retailers of milk in the town have been regularly inspected and the milk examined for bacteriological cleanliness. A total of 299 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Of these 17 or 5.7% were found positive. Appropriate action was taken immediately on notification of affected samples.

In accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the Agriculture Act, 1937, these notifications were transmitted to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who arranged veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned to eliminate any affected cattle. The following statement analyses the results of 22 such inspections made during 1950.

Cases where animals seized under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938	9
Number of animals seized ... ..	10
Cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to the investigation ... ..	7
Cases reported negative; no animals seized ... ..	1

I am concerned about the high incidence of tuberculosis in cattle as shown in the number of positive samples during the year, 17 as compared with 9 in 1949, and this in spite of the 6 monthly clinical examinations carried out by the Veterinary Officers.

One disturbing feature is the fact that in four cases animals were removed to Knackers Yards in the interval which elapsed between the taking of the samples and the commencement of the investigations by the Ministry of Agriculture Inspectors.

Aged cows are now being retained in the herds and it would appear that the present system of grading which makes it far more profitable for the farmers to dispose of heifers for beef rather than bring these into the milking herds is responsible for the retention of these older animals.

With regard to the working of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation in October 1949, placing the responsibility for the administration of these Regulations on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, there does not appear to be any supervision of producers of ungraded milk apart from investigation of the cases which we refer to them as a result of our sampling.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on register	Inspections	Notices
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	11	30	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority.	69	160	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	6	-
Total	82	196	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	10	10	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Inneffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	8	7	-	5
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	18	17	-	5

There are no Outworkers employed in the District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

### Scarlet Fever

During the year 50 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and of these it was necessary to treat 11 in hospital on account of reasons of public health. The disease continued to be mild with few complications and no deaths.

### Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria was notified.

### Measles and Whooping Cough

During the year 132 cases of Measles and 37 of Whooping Cough were notified. There were no deaths.

### Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis

No case of Anterior Polio-myelitis was notified.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The responsibility for this service is now that of the County Council and I am indebted to the Divisional Medical Officer for the following statistics.

Number of children completing immunisation during the year:-

Under 5 years of age	152
Over 5 years of age	<u>25</u>
Total	<u>177</u>

Number of children receiving reinforcement doses - 141

The immunisation state of the children at the end of the year was :-

Under 5 years of age	53%
Over 5 and under 15 years	83%

## VACCINATION

Since July 1948, the provision of vaccination has been included in the Personal Health Services to be given by the General Practitioner and the consequent end of the service of the Public Vaccinator. With the repeal of the Vaccination Acts, 1867 to 1907, vaccination is no longer compulsory.

The results of this change are shown in the accompanying table:-

Primary Vaccination				
Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	Over 15 years	Total
7	3	2	3	15
Re-vaccination				
-	-	-	3	3

WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of death during the year 1950.

Registrar General's Return

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus & lymphatic neoplasms	15	7
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	13
Coronary disease, angina	14	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart diseases	22	33
Other circulatory diseases	1	4
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	4	1
Bronchitis	6	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	4	1
Suicide	3	-
Total	109	88

TUBERCULOSIS New cases and Mortality during 1950.

Years	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				1				
10				2				
15								
20		1						
25	1							
35						1		
45		1			1			
55					1			
65 and upwards								
Total	1	2	-	3	2	1	-	-



WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1950. (Notified cases only).

	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Smallpox												
Scarlet Fever	50	1	3	13	27	4		2				11
Diphtheria												
Para-Typhoid												
Measles	132	10	28	50	43			1				
Whooping Cough	37	4	5	15	13							1
Pneumonia	6					1		3	2		5	
Acute Polio-myelitis												
Cerebro-spinal Fever												
Dysentery	3		1		1		1					3
Meningococcal Infection	1		1									1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum												
Erysipelas	1							1				
Encephalitis Lethargica												
Total	230	15	38	78	84	5	1	7	2	-	5	16





